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FOWEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR



1957

To :-

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF FOWEY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1957.

The vital records, when considered on a five year average, are reasonably satisfactory but the birth rate continues to be low.

I am indebted to Mr. Ainley, and to him and to members of the Council I wish to express my thanks for continued help and support. I also wish to thank Mr. Little of Fowey Grammar School for the weather report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JAS. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	2,979
Population (mid year)	...	...	2,310
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	985
Rateable Value	...	...	£32,960
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£110 14s.

Live Births				Rate/1000 Population	
	Male	Female	Total	Fowey	England & Wales
Legitimate	12	11	25		
Illegitimate	1	1		10.8	
	corrected rate			11.5	16.1

Still Births				Rate/1000 Total Births	
	Male	Female	Total	Fowey	England & Wales
	0	1	1	38.5	22.4

Deaths				Rate/1000 Population	
	Male	Female	Total	Fowey	England & Wales
	9	20	29	12.5	11.5
Rate corrected for age & sex distribution				10.5	

Maternal Deaths				Rate/1000 Live and Still Births	
	Male	Female	Total	Fowey	England & Wales
		0	0	0.0	0.47

Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 year of age)				Rate/1000 Live Births	
	Male	Female	Total	Fowey	England & Wales
	0	2	2	80.0	23.0

The following table gives the percentage distribution of ages at death :

Age Group	Percentage Dying	
	Males	Females
0 - 1	...	0.0 10.0
1 - 59	...	0.0 10.0
60 - 69	...	33.3 30.0
70 - 79	...	11.1 30.0
80 - 89	...	55.5 15.0
90 and over	...	0.0 5.0

The following is a list of the causes of death :

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0
2. „ „ other ...	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease ...	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
5. Whooping cough ...	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections ...	0	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0
8. Measles ...	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	0	0
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	0	0	0
12. „ „ breast	0	1	1
13. „ „ uterus	0	0	0
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	1	2
16. Diabetes ...	0	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	2	4
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	2	4	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
20. Other heart disease ...	1	2	3
21. Other circulatory diseases ...	0	2	2
22. Influenza ...	0	1	1
23. Pneumonia ...	0	1	1
24. Bronchitis ...	0	0	0
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis ...	0	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	0	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations ...	0	0	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	0	0	0
34. All other accidents ...	0	0	0
35. Suicide ...	0	0	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes :	9	20	29

There were two female infant deaths. One died from broncho-pneumonia aged 1 month and the other from peritonitis aged 2 weeks.

SECTION A.

Area (2,979 acres) The district consists of the estuarine Town of Fowey, the Hamlets of Newtown, Polkerris and Polmear, and a large rural background. China Clay is exported from the Port in large quantities, and the Town is yearly increasing in popularity as a Seaside Resort, for Summer visitors. These two combine to make the principle industries.

Population. The Registrar General's population figure for 1957 was 2,310. The temporary Summer population is estimated to add another 3,000.

Number of Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses is 985. The rateable value is £32,960, giving a penny rate of £110 14s.

Meteorological Data.

	Mean maximum of	Mean minimum of	Mean for month of	Difference from average of	Highest Max. of	Lowest Min. of	Humidity Average o/o	Rain inches and difference from Av.	Rain days .01 or more	Wet days .04 or more	Heavy falls in.	Cloudiness or otherwise	Thunder	Snow, etc. days	Fog	Gale
Jan.	50.1	40.7	45.4	+1.4	58	31	85	1.57	19	13		Rather Cloudy	1	Snow 3		3
								-2.41						1		
Feb.	51.2	41.3	46.3	+2.3	47	31	91	3.55	26	27		"	2	Sleet -		1
								+0.66						1		
Mar.	54.7	48.1	51.4	+6.4	60	43	96	2.91	19	13		"	-	-	-	-
								+0.15								
April	57.3	44.7	51.0	+3.0	65	36	88	0.35	6	2		Sunny	-	-	-	-
								-1.34								
May	60.6	46.5	53.5	+0.5	68	40	89	2.77	12	11	1.09	"	-	1	-	-
								+0.33			on 8th					
June	67.6	52.5	60.1	+2.1	80	42	87	2.78	9	6	1.13	"	2	-	-	-
								+0.83			on 9th					
July	68.7	57.4	63.1	+2.1	81	53	90	3.95	17	12	1.85	Rather Cloudy	2	Hail 1		-
								+1.34			on 2nd			1		
Aug.	67.0	56.3	61.7	+0.7	75	44	88	3.40	14	11		"	-	-	-	1
								+0.48								
Sept.	63.3	52.9	58.1	-0.9	68	42	89	3.11	18	14		Av'r'ge	-	-	-	-
								+0.41								
Oct.	70.6	49.4	55.1	+2.1	67	38	89	2.71	15	11		Rather Cloudy	-	-	3	-
								-1.18								
Nov.	51.6	42.3	47.9	-0.1	59	30	85	23.5	10	7		"	-	-	-	-
								-1.89								
Dec.	50.7	39.9	45.2	0.2	59	27	88	+2.31	13	11		"	1	-	-	2
								-1.75								

GENERAL COMMENTS—Clear weather (anticyclonic) with cold nights in Spring.
Unsettled in Summer. Mild, quiet and cloudy in Autumn.

SECTION B.

Public Health Officers

- (a) Medical Officer of Health : J. G. S. TURNER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
1/1/57 - 31/12/57.
(b) Public Health Inspector (part time) : A. AINLEY, A.F.S., M.R.S.I.,
1/1/57 - 31/12/57. M.R.I.Ph.H., C.S.I.B.

Laboratory Facilities

All investigations are carried out at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

In addition to the usual diphtheria prophylactics, supplies of whooping cough vaccine and of tetanus toxoid are available in various combinations and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners at the Area Office, St. Austell. Poliomyelitis vaccine is also available in limited amounts.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service is provided from the main centre at St. Austell and, in addition, Fowey has its own ambulance which operates in the evenings and at week-ends.

Nursing in the home

There is one District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor for the area.

Domestic Health Service

The establishment is the equivalent of two full-time helps. A total of 14 persons were aided, of whom 3 were maternity cases.

Maternity and Child Welfare

All mothers and children are visited in their homes by the Nurse. Expectant mothers attend the clinic in St. Austell.

Hospitals

The Town has a small 13 bedded hospital. Patients requiring specialised treatment go to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro, or to Redruth.

Clinics

Practically all the special clinics are held in St. Austell, either at the hospital or at Moorland Road.

SECTION C.

Water

Although water storage in reservoirs was greatly reduced during the Summer months, supplies were reasonably maintained.

The main sources of the Town's supplies are shallow springs, with the exception of a somewhat deeper source at Lescrow and a borehole supply at Trezare. The whole of the water supply to the Town is chlorinated.

All water samples taken proved satisfactory.

At the end of the year work was going forward on the preparation of the Fowey River Scheme.

Drainage

All sewers discharge into the tidal estuary below low water. Clearances and repairs to outfalls are carried out as required.

Public Cleansing

There was no change in the system of refuse collection which is found to work satisfactory.

Street cleansing is carried out daily in the main streets, and in other areas of the town as often as labour is available.

Disinfections

Two properties were disinfected during the year.

Rodent Control

Regular inspections of dwellings and business premises were made - 4 premises were treated.

Nuisances.

Approximately 200 complaints were received and investigated.

Conveniences.

9 public conveniences serve the Borough.

SECTION D. HOUSING

Slum Clearance

No new houses were built for the purposes of re-housing families from unfit dwellings during the year.

New Houses

4 houses (private enterprise) were erected during the year.

Repairs and Re-conditioning

Considerable work was done by private owners to improve their dwellings during the year.

SECTION E.

Milk

The Borough is a designated area and only bottled pasteurised or T.T. milk may be sold.

Ice Cream

There are 18 Retailers. There are no manufacturers in the Borough.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District.

Food Premises

There were approximately 50 inspections of registered food premises. Owners of premises and their staff were found to co-operate well.

Condemned Foodstuffs

No food was condemned during the year.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases.

DISEASE	NO. OF CASES	Rate/1000 population		
		FOWEY	BOROUGH	ENGLAND & WALES
	1957	1956	1957	1957
Whooping Cough	4	2.2	1.9	1.89
Measles ...	16	1.3	7.5	14.06
Scarlet Fever	1	2.2	0.5	0.66
Paralytic Polio	1	0.0	0.5	0.07

The single case of poliomyelitis occurred in an isolated farm cottage. Type I virus was recovered from a child in an adjoining cottage. A case occurred in this contact family in the 1950 outbreak.

Smallpox Vaccination. During the year there were 18 primary and 2 re-vaccinations.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of children at 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1943).

Age at 31/12/57 i.e. born in year	under 1 1957	1 - 4 1956-53	5 - 9 1952-48	10 - 14 1947-43	under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections whether primary or booster					
1953-1957	0	72	109	66	247
1951 or earlier	0	0	57	99	156
Estimated mid-year population	23	79	293		395
Immunity Index	0.0	91.0	59.8		62.6

During the year the following immunisations were carried out :-

Primary	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	19
Boosters	Diphtheria ...	18

These figures indicate a reasonably satisfactory immune state. It would help to reduce the incidence of whooping cough if a booster dose of vaccine were given on school entry.

Tuberculosis The total number of cases on the register at 31st December 1957 was as follows:-

		Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	...	10	12	22
Non-pulmonary	...	1	2	3

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of new cases and of deaths for 1957.

Age Group	New Cases						Deaths					
	Respiratory		Meninges		Others		Respiratory		Meninges		Others	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

In addition there were three transfers into the area.

The scheme for the protection of school leavers which involves skin tests, B.C.G. vaccination and X-rays was continued. It was found that 16.7% of the children had some experience of previous tubercular infection. B.C.G. was offered to all the other children and 35 were vaccinated. About 34 children were examined by X-ray, but no abnormalities were found.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

As vaccine supplies were still inadequate until toward the end of the year only a few children were vaccinated.

The analysis of results for 1956 for the U.K. indicates that the vaccine confers considerable protection.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including visits made by the Public Health Inspector)

PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which sections I, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	3	4	—
II. Factories not included in (I) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	10	—
TOTAL	13	14	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted Remedies by informal action
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

